

ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"



DECEMBER 2025

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

Website: stmattsecckunkletown.com

WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM SUNDAY
CIA CLASS
10:30 AM SUNDAY

Christmas Eve Services
December 24th
3pm and 8pm

RJ Cramer

Council President

Wil Hoffman

Pastor

Starlene Barr

Treasurer

Renée Keiper

Church Secretary

Dan Smale

Music Director

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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Kunkletown, Pa 18058

102 Church Road

St. Matthew's Church

To My Church Family at St. Matthew's in Kunkletown,

I am not, like many others, a big fan of change. I like the comfortable, the known, the familiar. But what I tend to forget is that everything once was new.

I grew up in a Catholic church but decided as a young adult that that was not the place for me. As I was planning my first marriage and wasn't attending church, I went to an Episcopal church because it was "Catholic-lite." I could walk in and be familiar with the service. I was at that church for the next 15 years.

Then, Pastor Wil (just plain Wil—well, Wilbert—to me back then) literally walked back into my life (a block and a half to be exact). He attended the Episcopal church with me very briefly but made it clear that was not the church for him. So, we started looking around and landed on a nondenominational church. Talk about change! There wasn't one thing that was like any church I had ever attended—from the lack of pews to the music and stage. I was nervous but excited.

Wil and I became members, were married in that church, and stayed for four years. This church opened my eyes to what church could be like, but the cliques and teachings of the pastor did not align with where we wanted to be. God put Pastor Ken Ogden in our lives through Boy Scouts. We started to attend Peoples EC Church and, as you know, the rest is history.

Side note: I attended Peoples as a very small girl when they had a bus that drove around Franklin Township and picked the children up. I thought this would be the church that I would spend the rest of my life at. God's plan was not my plan. More change.

With my transition to St. Matthew's EC Church, I was uncomfortable, sad, and unsure—not of the people, just of something different. Getting to know the ins and outs, feeling like I belong. Starting over.

But through every season of change, I've come to see that while I may not always choose the path, God always leads it. Each move, each new church, each uncomfortable beginning has been His way of shaping my faith and drawing me closer to Him. Change can feel like loss, but it's also God's invitation to trust His lead—to believe that He's already waiting for us in the next chapter. I don't always understand His timing, but I'm learning that His plan is always better than my comfort zone.

And now, I can honestly say how grateful and happy I am to be here at St. Matthew's. What once felt uncertain has become home. I feel God's presence in this place and in the people around me. I know He has led me exactly where I'm meant to be—and I am so thankful for this new chapter.

Christ's Blessing to You,
Tammy Hoffman



Family, Faith, & Fun Night December 12th 5-7pm

Join us for a special evening of faith, fellowship, and festive fun as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season! Our Family, Faith & Fun Night will feature pizza, a story, activities, and a joyful time of Christmas performance practice for all ages. Enjoy a variety of activities throughout the evening.

Whether you're part of the Christmas program or simply coming to enjoy the fellowship, there's something for everyone. Let's come together as a church family to celebrate the true reason for the season — Jesus Christ — and make lasting memories filled with joy.

Please let Tiffany know if you plan to attend by December 5th. She can be contacted by text at 610-762-3603 or emailed at childrensministrytl@gmail.com.



Be Part of Our Christmas Performance!

The Christmas season is almost here, and we're excited to begin preparing a special Christmas performance for our church family and the residents of Mrs. Bush's.

Children, youth, and adults are all invited to join in—there's a place for everyone to share the joy of Jesus' birth together.

More details will be shared soon, but if you're interested in participating in the performance, please contact Tiffany at childrensministrytl@gmail.com or 610-762-3603.

Let's make this Christmas a beautiful celebration of faith, joy, and community!

St. Matthew's Prayer List – as of November 23, 2025

KINGDOM WORK:

Sister Helena – Zambia – raising chickens, growing vegetables
feeding the children and can now put a roof on facility
Randy & Deb Sheagley – Touch the World website

MILITARY:

Logan Mackes (Grandson of Rose Fritz): Serving in the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, TX for next 2½ years from Jan. 30, 2025
Bryce Silliman (Irene and Dean Zacharias' grandson) US Navy
Conner Wise (Hal's cousin's son): U.S. Marine deployed to Iwakuni, Japan (via Hawaii & Guam) for 6-9 months.

LONG-TERM NEEDS:

Conner Bittenbender: (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; lab test results & healing
Gene Borger: Strength and healing
Roberta Heffley (Eleanor Long's Sister): Cancer
Shannon Osinski (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
Marlette Palermo: healing
Sheila Sherer (Eleanor Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain
Hudson Stewart (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

SHUT INS:

Shirley Kuntz—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058
James Borger—526 Wood Street, Apt 439, Bethlehem PA 18018-4463
Larry Hahn—Gracedale, 2 Gracedale Ave, Nazareth PA 18064
Leah Jane Sterner—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
Kay Frable – Liza's House, 1357 Blue Mountain, Danielsville PA 18038
Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058
Gladys Meixsell—Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360
Velma Silfies—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
Joann Hunsicker—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—2W, P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown PA 18058
Jacqueline Mock—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058
Jesse Ziegenfus—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330
Gloria (Jeannie) Anewalt: Walden Building III, Room 118, 325 N. Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091***

BEREAVEMENT

Tom Barr Sr./2
Chapman Kim Buskirk/2

NEW NEEDS:

Tom Barr: strength and healing/5***
Sterling Borger: strength and healing/5***
Darryl Breinich: healing and strength/4
Devoe Breinich: healing and strength/4
Countryside Square Stores: prayers for those affected by the fire/3
Pete (friend of Vivian Smith): knee surgery/3
Robbin Eckhart: strength and healing/3
Winfred Hoglen (friend of the Hubers): healing after surgery/1
Wayne K. (friend of Roy Zeruth): prayers for healing after farming accident/3
Angela Procita (Wanda Wunder's daughter): health and medical healing/2
Roger (Leanne Sitler's son in law): health concerns/3
Mary and Bob Ryan (friends of St. Matthew's): prayers for strength/3
Donna Serfass (Grandmother to Wade and Harper Serfass): knee surgery/3
Milton and Barbara Souders' son-in-law: healing for broken wrists/2
Barbara Souders: strength and healing/3



Kunkletown Christmas

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 6:00pm

St. Matthew's EC Church

102 Church Rd.

Kunkletown, PA 18058

Christmas Music Event

Featuring: RJ Cramer and friends, St. Matthew's Choir and more!!

October Offering—2025

10/5/25—93 attending—\$3,332.00

10/12/25—72 attending—\$1,297.00

10/19/25—82 attending—\$2,620.00

10/26/25—102 attending—\$1,587.00

Paypal \$297.47

Total—\$9,133.47

October Offering—2024

10/6/24—95 attending—\$4,190.00

10/13/24—58 attending—\$2,913.00

10/20/24—62 attending—\$1,650.00

10/27/24—71 attending—\$1,880.00

Total \$10,633.00

The Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 14th

Please plan to be here to vote for Council members and
the 2026 Budget. (proposed budget on next page)

We want to thank Diann Bittenbender, Hal Eckhart and Tonya Peddigree
for their years of service on the Church Council.

If you are interested in serving on the Council
please talk to any current Council member.

2026 Budget - St. Matthews ECC

ACCOUNT NUMBER	EXPENSE ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2025	2026 NOTES & CHANGES	2026
6207	BANK FEES	\$ 225	PayPal Fees, Bank Fees or Interest	\$ 225
6602	SNOW PLOWING	\$ 3,750	Church Snow Plowing	\$ 5,000
6800	MINISTER		MINISTER (W2)	
6801	MINISTER SALARY	\$ 59,000	MINISTER SALARY	\$ 35,200
6803	PENSION & DISABILITY	\$ 3,600	CHURCH ECC PENSION & DISABILITY	\$ 4,900
6805	MINISTER CHURCH PAID S.S.	\$ 1,989	Effective Salary \$55,000 x 7.65% = \$4,207.50 ETPS	\$ 4,208
6806	CONTINUING ED / PASTOR EXP.	\$ 1,500	CONTINUING ED / PASTOR EXP. / BOOKS	\$ 1,750
6807	MINISTER LIFE & LTC INS.	\$ 1,900	ECC BENEFITS CORP	\$ 125
6808	MINISTER HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$ 15,000	MINISTER HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$ 19,800
6809	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	\$ 2,000	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	\$ -
6810	NEW PASTOR EXPENSES	\$ 5,000		\$ -
	6800 MINISTER TOTAL:	\$ 89,989		\$ 65,983
6810	PARSONAGE			
6814	PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 3,750	PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 4,000
6815	MAINTENANCE	\$ 500	Repairs	\$ 500
6816	IMPROVEMENT	\$ 500	Renovations - Roof	\$ 12,500
	6810 PARSONAGE TOTAL:	\$ 4,750		\$ 17,000
6820	WORSHIP			
6821	CHURCH LITERATURE	\$ 650	Worship Service Ads / Upper Room Magazine / TN	\$ 700
6822	CONFIRMATION CLASS	\$ 200	Active Confirmation Class	\$ 200
6824	MUSIC / WORSHIP / VIDEO LICENSES	\$ 1,300	Used For or In Sanctuary Worship / CVLI / Resi	\$ 1,600
6825	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 1,500	VBS, Sunday School	\$ 1,200
6826	STATIONARY & OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 2,200	Relating to Office Use (not copier)	\$ 2,400
6827	COPIER SUPPLIES & EXP.	\$ 3,000	Copier Maintenance & Service, Paper & Toner	\$ 3,000
6828	BULLETINS, INSERTS & NEWSLETTERS	\$ 1,285	CCLI-Split, Newsletter, Copy Corner \$780	\$ 1,285
6829	OFFERING ENV. & LEDGER	\$ 1,500	AmericanChurch / Checks4Less	\$ 1,500
6830	POSTAGE	\$ 1,200	Bulk Mailings, Annual Permit Fee & Stamps	\$ 1,350
6831	CONFERENCE EXPENSES	\$ -	Conferences	\$ 1,500
6832	ALTAR FLOWERS EXPENSE	\$ 300	Off-Set by Altar Flower Income - 4113	\$ 300
6839	CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION	\$ 3,114	5.56% of Envelope Income & WE Fair Net	\$ 7,324
	6820 WORSHIP TOTAL:	\$ 16,249		\$ 22,359
6840	CHURCH EMPLOYEES (W2)		All W2 Employees	
6841	CHOIR DIRECTOR	\$ 9,776	Daniel \$200 per Week - Paid Bi-Weekly	\$ 10,400
6842	YOUTH DIRECTOR	\$ 2,450	Tiffany \$16 x 13 hrs per Week - Paid Bi-Weekly	\$ 10,816
6843	SEXTON	\$ 3,492	Sandra \$19.84 x 21 hrs per Mo - Paid 2nd Sunday	\$ 5,800
6844	PASTORAL SECRETARY	\$ 16,600	Renee \$16.50 x 20 hrs per Week - Paid Bi-Weekly	\$ 17,160
6845	TREASURER	\$ 8,100	Starlene \$762.50 per Month - Paid 3rd Sunday	\$ 9,150
6846	SUPPLY PERSONNEL (W9, 1099)	\$ 600	\$150.00 x 4 weeks	\$ 600
6847	FINANCIAL SECRETARY	\$ 1,800	Diane \$416.67 per Bi-Mo. - Paid 1st Sun Even Mo.	\$ 2,500
6849	CHURCH % OF S.S. & MED.	\$ 3,230	Based on Total Employee Salary x 0.0765	\$ 4,271
6861	CARETAKER	\$ 1,000	Caretaker	\$ 1,000
6862	CHURCH EMP. MILEAGE	\$ 2,000	(also includes Supply Pastor Mileage)	\$ 2,000
6863	EXPENSE FOR CHOIR DIRECTOR	\$ 500	Daniel's Music Expense	\$ 1,000
6864	EXPENSE FOR YOUTH DIRECTOR	\$ 300	Youth Expense	\$ 300
	6840 CHURCH EMPLOYEES TOTAL:	\$ 49,848		\$ 64,997
6850	CHURCH PLANT EXPENSE			
6851	CHURCH HEAT	\$ 7,500	Fuel Oil & Propane	\$ 7,500
6852	CHURCH ELECTRIC	\$ 7,500	PPL	\$ 8,000
6853	CHURCH TELEPHONE & INTERNET	\$ 1,900	BRCTV Communications & Palmerton Telephone	\$ 2,000
6854	CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,300	Repairs / ABE Labs / AllenOrgan / Licenses	\$ 2,300
6855	INSURANCE & WORKER'S COMP.	\$ 10,700	Church Mutual Insurances	\$ 13,140
6856	GENERAL PROPERTY EXPENSES	\$ 5,700	WM, Altronics, Fire, Pest, Elevator Contract	\$ 5,700
6856	MOWING	\$ 16,000	Mowing - Grove, Cemeteries, Church & Hill	\$ 11,500
6857	SEXTON SUPPLIES	\$ 1,000	Clean Church (Toilet Paper, Towels, Soap, Etc)	\$ 1,250
6871	GROVE IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 4,000	Renovations	\$ 3,000
6872	GROVE ELECTRIC	\$ 1,800	PPL	\$ 2,000
6891	CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT	\$ 5,000	Unplanned Expenses to the Budget	\$ 5,000
	6850 CHURCH PLANT EXP. TOTAL:	\$ 63,400		\$ 61,390
TOTAL 2025 BUDGETED EXPENSES:		\$ 228,211	TOTAL 2026 PROJECTED BUDGET:	\$ 236,954

CIA COOK'S CORNER
CRESCENT CHEESECAKE
BY BRENDA DORSHIMER

2 tubes crescent rolls
2 8 oz pkgs cream cheese
1 Egg, separated
3/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 tsp vanilla

Grease a 9 x 13 pan. Place
1 tube of crescent rolls in bottom of pan.
Beat cream cheese, egg yolk, sugar and vanilla.
Spread over dough.
Place the other tube of rolls on top of cream cheese
mixture.
Brush with lightly beaten egg whites.
Bake at 350 degrees for 25 - 30 minutes.
Cool then cut into 2 inch squares.
Great for the holidays!



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 ADVENT SERVICE 6:00PM AT ST. MATTHEWS	4	5	6
7 KUNKLETOWN CHRISTMAS 6PM	8 COUNCIL 7PM	9	10 ADVENT SERVICE 6:00PM AT LIVING HOPE LIGHTHOUSE	11	12 FAMILY FUN NIGHT/ PAGEANT REHEARSAL	13
14 ANNUAL MEETING	15	16	17 ADVENT SERVICE 6:00PM AT PEOPLES	18	19	20
21 CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DURING SERVICE	22	23	24 3PM AND 8PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 			

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Leilani Frantz, Sally Haydt	15 Brittany Handelong
2 Bruce Pozza	16 Ricky Gower
3 Rose Arace, Denise Brotzman	17 Kay Frable, Kyle Frantz, Jennifer Kibler
4 Brian Beidleman	20 Beverly Frantz
5 Ty Borger, Nancy Frantz, Robert May	22 Kevin Yapple
6 Delbert Kresge	23 Mitchell Hawk
7 Kayla Frable	24 Devoe Breinich, Luciano Garita
8 Connie Moretz	25 Lynn Witt
9 Lisa Everett	26 Janine Krechel
11 Lynn Courtright, Kaitlin Silliman	27 Daniel Frantz
12 Ted Kreger, Sterling Kresge, Rocky Smith Julie Sterner, Gerald Voorhees	28 Alysha Kresge, Wendy Peddigree
	30 Tracy Buskirk, Kaylee Hawk
	31 Jeremy Smith